

No 40
FEB.

ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN!

10¢

Can AN ANCIENT
LEGEND AWAKE TO
NIGHTMARE LIFE? READ
WHAT HAPPENED WHEN
THE DREADED ICE KING
ATTACKED --- IN

"HEART of the
SNOW MAIDEN"!

THIS BRUTE IS
FANTASTIC! SOLID
ICE... BUT ALIVE! AND
NOTHING CAN
STOP IT!



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WHAT IS THAT TINY SPARK OF LIFE FORCE THAT MAKES A THING LIVE-- MAKES A MAN DIFFERENT FROM A LUMP OF CLAY? IF WE KNEW, WE MIGHT UNDERSTAND HOW A MASS OF ICE COULD MOVE, THINK, AND FEEL-- HOW IT COULD BECOME A FEARFUL AGENT OF DESTRUCTION WHEN BALKED IN LOVE! WE THINK YOU MAY SLEEP LESS ON A WINTER'S NIGHT WHEN YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT THE...



of the SNOW MAIDEN



THE ALPS IN SUMMER... A PLACE OF BEAUTY, OF PEACE... A PLACE WITH ROOM FOR EVERYTHING-- INCLUDING **TERROR!**



...YOU SAY AN AVALANCHE DID IT? HOW HORRIBLE!

YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT MANY YEARS AGO THERE WERE HAPPY PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS VILLAGE-- DANCING AT FESTIVALS HERE IN THE TOWN SQUARE! THERE'S AN OLD LEGEND TOLD OF THIS PLACE...



"LONG AGO," GIL BEGAN, "A FRIENDLY SPRITE KNOWN AS THE **SNOW MAIDEN** WOULD SOMETIMES COME DOWN FROM HER ICY HOME ON THE MOUNTAIN AND JOIN IN THE DANCING -- "

"SHE WAS A LIVING STATUE OF SOLID ICE, WHITE, COLD, AND-- **VERY BEAUTIFUL!** SO LONG AS SHE WAS A REMOTE SEMI-GODDESS, THE VILLAGERS LOVED HER..."

"... UNTIL ONE DAY, SHE DEFIED THE TIMELESS LAW THAT GOVERNS THE MORTAL AND IMMORTAL-- **SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH A HUMAN!**"

THEY ARE WRONG WHO SAY MY HEART IS COLD! FOR YOU, IT BURNS LIKE A CRYSTAL FLAME!



"THUS THE FORCES OF TRAGEDY WERE UNLEASHED! HIGH ON MOUNT BLANC, A MONSTROUS FORCE STIRRED-- WHO CLAIMED THE SNOW MAIDEN FOR HIS OWN-- **THE ICE KING!**"

"SO DIED THE SNOW MAIDEN-- BURIED UNDER A MOUNTAIN OF SNOW, ALONG WITH THE ENTIRE VILLAGE--"

SHE DARES FORSAKE ME? THEN SHE MUST **DIE**-- WITH HIM WHO STOLE HER FROM ME!



MY BELOVED -- NO! **AGHHH!**



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL LEGEND-- BUT RATHER SILLY, ISN'T IT?

MAYBE... BUT EVER SINCE I FIRST HEARD IT AS A KID, I'VE BELIEVED IT!



THEN, AFTER HOURS OF HUNTING AMONG THE RUINS-- GIL BENT OVER TO PICK UP A SHINING OBJECT--

ELLA-- WHAT LUCK! IT-- IT'S WHAT I CAME HERE TO FIND-- THE HEART OF THE SNOW MAIDEN!

OH, GIL, DON'T CARRY THIS TOO FAR! THIS IS THE 20TH CENTURY, REMEMBER?



I... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S PROBABLY A VALUABLE DIAMOND SOMEBODY LOST! I'LL HAVE IT CUT INTO AN ENGAGEMENT RING-- FOR YOU!

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT, DARLING-- AND IT IS BEAUTIFUL!



TWO WEEKS LATER, ON THE BOAT SAILING HOMEWARD... GIL FOUND HIMSELF TORMENTED BY THE HEART-SHAPED DIAMOND--

IT IS THE HEART OF THE SNOW MAIDEN-- I'M CERTAIN! AND PERHAPS SOON-- I'LL PROVE IT!



SOME MONTHS LATER--

GIL, SINCE WE'VE RETURNED FROM ABROAD, YOU'VE SPENT MOST OF YOUR TIME IN YOUR STUDY! EVEN A SCULPTOR SHOULD HAVE SOME TIME FOR HIS BEST GIRL!

ARE YOU-- AVOIDING ME?

ER... I'VE BEEN VERY BUSY, DEAR-- A SPECIAL JOB!-- I'LL CALL YOU TONIGHT!



I DON'T DARE ASK HIM WHY HE HASN'T GIVEN ME MY ENGAGEMENT RING-- CUT FROM THAT STRANGE DIAMOND HE FOUND! MAYBE HE DOESN'T LOVE ME ANYMORE-- MAYBE HE'S SOLD IT!



THAT NIGHT, WORRIED ABOUT HER SWEETHEART, ELLA CREPT UP TO HIS STUDIO WINDOW! THERE--

GOOD HEAVENS-- GIL'S GONE MAD! HE'S CARVING A FIGURE FROM ICE-- AND HE'S LEFT THE WINDOW OPEN ON THIS FREEZING NIGHT SO IT WON'T MELT!

AT LAST-- I'VE CARVED A BODY FOR THE SNOW MAIDEN! WITH HER HEART IN PLACE, I'LL GIVE HER-- LIFE!



NEXT, GIL ANXIOUSLY PREPARED TO PLACE THE HUGE GEM WITHIN THE FROZEN FORM--



MEANWHILE, FAR ACROSS THE SEA, THE MOLD WAS POURED FOR STARK TERROR! ONCE AGAIN, THERE WAS OMINOUS ACTIVITY ON THE SLOPES OF MOUNT BLANC--



BY DAY, A SHAPELESS CRAG OF ICE--

HM... DIDN'T NOTICE THAT ICE PILE THERE YESTERDAY! MY EYES MUST BE GOING BAD!



BY NIGHT, A SWIFTLY-MOVING MONSTER THAT RACED ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WORLD, EVER CLOSER TO ITS GOAL--

HUH? I COULD'VE SWORN I SAW AN ICEBERG MOVING ACROSS THE HORIZON-- FAST AS AN EXPRESS TRAIN! BETTER KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT-- THE BOYS'LL THINK I'M LOCO!



THEN, AT A FARM, A FEW MILES FROM GIL'S STUDIO, THE HORRIFYING MONSTER WAS DISCOVERED!

SARAH-- HELP! CALL THE POLICE! AARGHHH!



MAGICALLY, THE COUNTRYSIDE WAS AROUSED, THE NATION PANICKED--

THIS BRUTE IS **FANTASTIC**, FOLKS! **SOLID ICE-- BUT ALIVE!** THE NATIONAL GUARD IS ATTACKING IT WITH EVERYTHING FROM GUNS TO BLOW TORCHES-- BUT **NOTHING** SEEMS ABLE TO STOP THIS NIGHTMARE CREATURE!

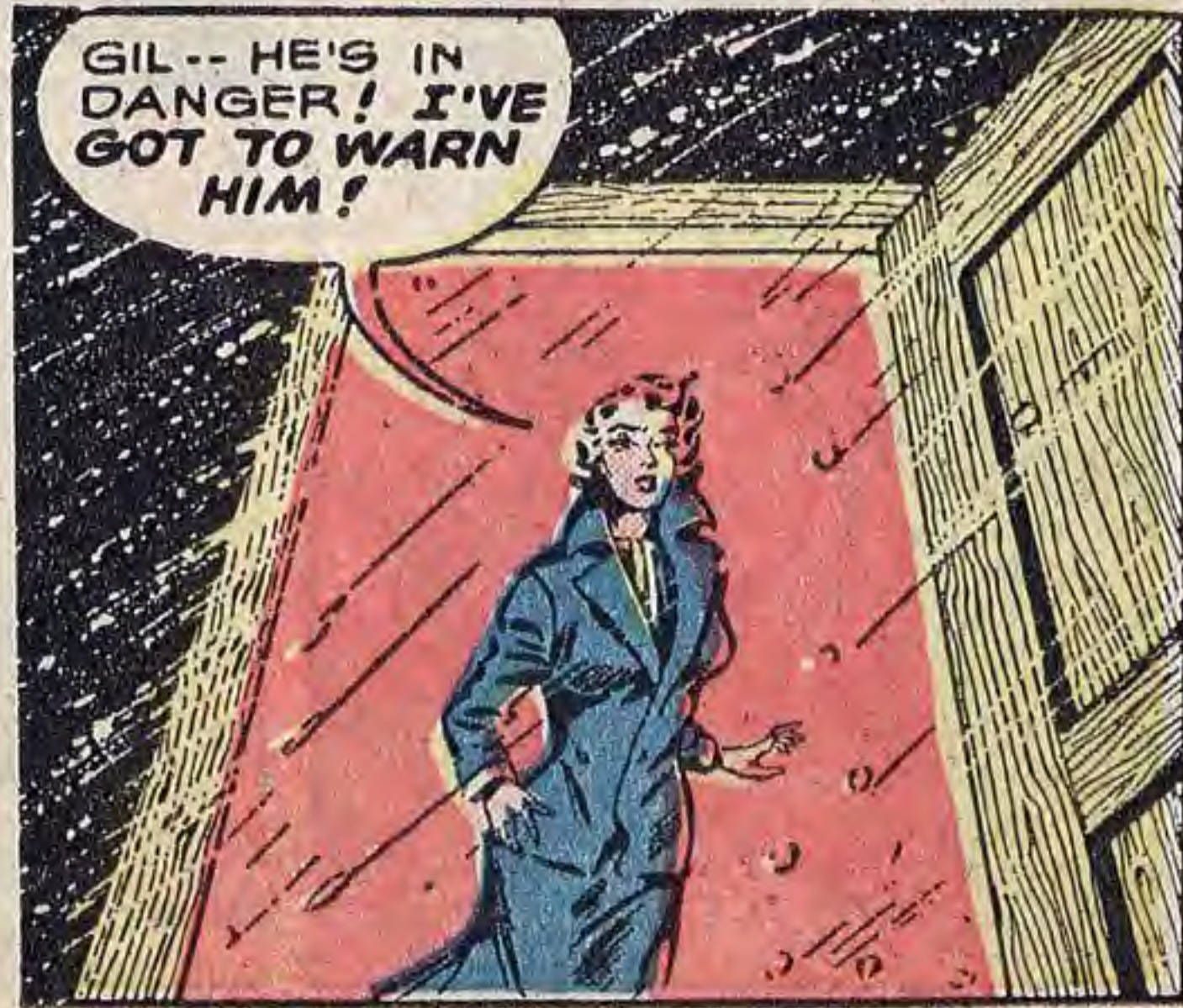


HE'S GETTING AWAY-- HEADING FOR THE VILLAGE NEARBY!

IT SOUNDS LIKE-- IT MUST BE-- THE **ICE KING** OF THE LEGEND! IT MUST BE COMING FOR THE **SNOW MAIDEN!**



GIL-- HE'S IN DANGER! I'VE GOT TO WARN HIM!



MEANWHILE, IN GIL'S STUDIO--

I MUST PROVE TO YOU THAT MY LOVE IS REAL-- THAT NOTHING CAN COME BETWEEN US!

NO-- YOU MUSTN'T! I FEEL NOTHING FOR YOU-- NOTHING!



ANGRY, GIL SPRANG BACK-- JUST AS ELLA BURST IN--

WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH A LEGEND ALL ALONG! I COULDN'T LOVE YOU-- YOU'RE AS COLD AS THE ICE YOU'RE MADE OF!

GIL-- LISTEN!



ELLA! I KNOW NOW THAT MY LOVE REALLY BELONGS TO YOU! I WAS JUST OBSESSED BY A BOYHOOD DREAM!

OH, GIL, I'M SO GLAD! BUT -- THE ICE KING-- HE'S ON HIS WAY HERE-- DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN HIS PATH!

HE KNOWS! HE'LL KILL YOU BOTH TO GET TO ME! NOTHING WILL STOP HIM!



THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO HANDLE HIM-- WITH THIS!

NO, GIL-- THE MEN OF THE VILLAGE HAVE TRIED GUNS! --IT WON'T WORK!



THAT'S BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T SHOOT IN THE RIGHT PLACE! THAT MONSTER'S LIKE THE SNOW MAIDEN-- ONLY HIS HEART'S ALIVE!

BUT IT'S TOO SMALL TO HIT! YOU'LL HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!



TOO LATE -- THE ICE KING HAD ARRIVED!

RRR-AGHNN!

CRASH!



YII-III!

WITH DELIBERATE CALM, GIL FIRED AT A TINY SPOT OF GLEAMING CRYSTAL-- A LIFE-OR-DEATH SHOT!



THEN, OUTSIDE--

GOOD WORK, GIL-- YOU'VE FINISHED IT!

C'MON, BOYS-- LET'S MELT THIS THING INTO A PUDDLE!



GIL RETURNED, HIS PROBLEM STILL UNSOLVED--

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT HER?

I KNOW THAT LOVE FOR ME IS IMPOSSIBLE! I WILL GO TO THE MOUNTAIN TOPS, AMID THE ETERNAL SNOWS-- AND THERE DWELL FOREVER!



AND SO, A PITIFUL FIGURE, WHITE AND BEAUTIFUL, BEGAN HER AGELESS VIGIL WITH LONELINESS!



[Later--

GOSH, GIL-- LOOK WHAT THE PAPER SAYS ABOUT YOU! IT'LL BE NICE, MARRIED TO A HERO!

HUH? OH, YEAH... YEAH...

SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL!



THEY WOULD HAVE DONE BETTER TO READ THE WEATHER REPORT--



WHILE IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE, IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ODDLY-SHAPED POOL OF WATER, GLEAMS THE STILL-LIVING HEART OF THE ICE KING!



ALREADY, AT THE EDGES OF THE POOL, ICE IS FORMING RAPIDLY---

THE END

The LAST ACT

THE SMALL, SHRILL cries from inside the trunk continued, as Vincent's taut nerves stretched ever closer to the snapping point.

He thought back to how the strange events had begun. Vincent Sandor had been a good, but little known ventriloquist, barely eking out a living before unresponsive audiences. But all that had changed, suddenly...when Quinto came along.

Quinto was a wooden dummy Vincent had bought two years before in Vienna. "The storekeeper *did* act strangely," Vincent remembered bitterly, "almost as if he was *anxious* to get rid of him!"

From the beginning he had felt strangely drawn to the dummy. It was so lifelike, so *incredibly* lifelike, that during performances he felt as if he were *actually* talking to a nasty little boy. Soon Vincent's act was sought for everywhere. Fees became larger, and with it, fame.

But a subtle change took place in Vincent's character. For a time he showed only unusual nervousness just before his act. These feelings grew more intense, until at last he verged on a nervous breakdown. "You're overworked," doctors agreed. "You need a long rest."

"The fools!" Vincent said aloud. "They never even guessed the truth. How could they, when it took *me* so long to believe, despite the growing evidence?"

The horrible truth, which Vincent now faced, was that...*Quinto was coming alive!* At first, he had noticed only an occasional fluttering of the dummy's eyelids. "Only my imagination," Vincent told himself then. But the evidence mounted. Soon there were perceptible twitchings of the wooden arms and legs, unexpected activity in the wooden eyes, and then, that terrible night two weeks before...

He remembered it vividly. The performance had not gone well. And then, without warning, Quinto had begun to *speak*, of his own accord. The audience thought the spectacle a masterstroke of

the ventriloquist's art. What a triumph it had been! But Vincent had nearly collapsed with fright.

Since then Quinto had grown worse, more unmanageable. Finally Vincent realized that the dummy, which was as yet alive only during performances, was gaining life at the expense of his own.

Now they were alone in the immense, secluded house. Rain was falling outside and the moan of the wind was loud in the trees. Vincent had locked the dummy securely in a trunk. For three days there had been no sound from within, but just as Vincent began to feel better a shrill voice had called, "Vincent! Release me!"

Vincent had done nothing, steeling his nerves to the ordeal. Then the screams began, louder and louder, until now the whole mansion was filled with inhuman shrieks.

"It's only a matter of time," Vincent thought, "before I go mad." As he held a match to his cigarette he realized finally that death would be a release. But if he was to die he would take the dummy with him...

Calmly he set fire to the drapes. Flames rushed up the windows and spread swiftly. Vincent pulled his chair into the center of the room and watched the fire circle him. Suddenly, from inside the trunk, came the shout, "Vincent, you fool! Let me out!"

"Demon!" Vincent shouted back maniacally. "Yes!" Quickly he opened the trunk.

Quinto was thoroughly alive now, his wooden eyes glinting evil. The flames were all around them and the heat was unbearable. "Idiot!" the dummy shrieked. "We've got to get out of here!"

Vincent laughed, completely insane now, as he heard the old timbers above creak. Quinto made a frenzied dash for the flaming window, but his wooden body quickly kindled. Vincent listened to the dummy's agonized shrieks with a sense of triumph...until the falling roof put a stop to everything.

READER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN HOW TO GO WHIZZING THROUGH THE AIR... ON A BROOM-STICK? IT CAN BE DONE... WITHOUT LENGTHY INSTRUCTION OR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE... AND THE METHOD IS RIGHT HERE IN THIS STORY!

The LITTLE WITCH

I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU HOW TO FLY A BROOMSTICK... BUT IF IT DOESN'T WORK... YOU CAN BLAME THE OLD WITCH!



ART GATES

WATCH OUT FOR THAT LITTLE WITCH... SHE'S A BAD UN!



MOM... IS IT TRUE THAT A WITCH CAN FLY AROUND ON A BROOM-STICK?

NONSENSE, BOBBY! GO UPSTAIRS AND DO YOUR HOME-WORK... YOU'VE GOT JUST AN HOUR BEFORE BED-TIME!



GROWNUPS DON'T BELIEVE IN ANY-THING! BUT JUST THE SAME... THERE'S PLENTY OF PICTURES OF WITCHES ON BROOMS... EVERY HALLOWE'EN!



AN HOUR PASSES... AND THE MORE BOBBY THINKS AND DREAMS... THE MORE CONVINCED HE BECOMES!

NOW THAT PEOPLE HAVE CARS AND PLANES... MAYBE THEY'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO USE BROOMS! BUT GOSH, I HAVEN'T EVEN GOT A BIKE... MAYBE IT'D WORK FOR ME!



MOM SAYS IT'S PURE NONSENSE! SHE **COULD** BE RIGHT...BUT I BET SHE NEVER **TRIED!**

SECONDS LATER...IN A NEAT TAKEOFF INTO THE WIND FROM THE KITCHEN STEPS ...BOBBY MAKES HIS FIRST SOLO FLIGHT!

THEN, AS BOBBY CIRCLES TOWARD A NEARBY APPLE TREE...



GOLLY...LOOK AT ME! THIS IS WAY BETTER THAN A BIKE!



OOOPS! THE BROOM HIT A BRANCH...IT'S TIP-PING OVER!



I'M FALLING!



JEEPERS...I FELL ASLEEP... THE WHOLE THING WAS A **DREAM!** MOM WAS RIGHT...THIS BUSINESS OF FLYING ON A BROOM IS **RIDICULOUS!**



SUDDENLY, A RUSH OF WIND...AND...

HELLO!

WOW! THIS TIME I'M WIDE AWAKE! WHO ARE YOU?





I'M A WITCH!

BUT YOU CAN'T BE! WITCHES ARE UGLY OLD WOMEN WHO CAUSE ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE!



OH, I'M NOT REALLY A **BAD** WITCH! I JUST HANDLE **LITTLE** THINGS... LIKE MISCHIEF AND TRICKS... AND LOOKING FOR CHILDREN TO PLAY WITH! YOU SEE, BOBBY... IT DOESN'T HAPPEN VERY OFTEN... BUT WHEN A CHILD **DREAMS** ABOUT FLYING ON A BROOM... **IT MEANS LEARNING NOW!** NOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO VISIT THE **WITCH COUNTRY** WITH ME!



I **CAN'T!** I'VE GOT TO DO MY ARITHMETIC HOMEWORK!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE HOMEWORK, BOBBY... I **PROMISE!** COME ON... **IT'LL BE FUN!**

SO, SIGHTING ON THE NORTH STAR, OFF THEY STREAKED... BOBBY... AND THE **LITTLE WITCH!**



IS IT VERY FAR TO THE **WITCH COUNTRY**?

THAT DEPENDS, BOBBY! THE OLDER YOU GROW... THE FARTHER IT GETS!



SUDDENLY, THE DARKNESS FADED, AND THERE IT WAS... THE **ONLY** PLACE THAT CAN BE REACHED ON A BROOM!

AHAA... THE FIRST CHILD I'VE SEEN SINCE HANSEL AND GRETEL! YOUNG UNS DON'T DO ENOUGH DREAMING ABOUT BROOMSTICK RIDING THESE DAYS!

I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT MEDDLING **LITTLE WITCH** DOESN'T ROB ME OF **THIS ONE!**



GEE... SHE'S **HORRIBLE!** IS SHE REALLY AS BAD AS SHE LOOKS?

AWFUL!



SO YOU FOUND YOUR WAY TO THE **WITCH COUNTRY**, EH, SONNY? YOU'LL **LIKE** IT, ESPECIALLY IF YOU STAY TWO OR THREE WEEKS!

THAT'LL GIVE ME TIME TO FATTEN HIM UP... AND GET THE COBWEBS OUT OF THE OVEN!

I KNOW JUST WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, **OLD WITCH...** BUT IT ISN'T GOING TO WORK! BOBBY CAME HERE JUST TO PLAY... **AND I'M TAKING CARE OF HIM!**

NEXT DAY...

BOBBY, ISN'T THIS VERY STRANGE? YOUR ARITHMETIC HOMEWORK IS CORRECT...BUT ALL THE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT BY **ALGEBRA**...AND YOU HAVEN'T **LEARNED** IT YET!

...ER... I'VE BEEN STUDYING IT BY MYSELF...IN MY SPARE TIME!



GEE, I TOLD A **LIE**...ALL ON ACCOUNT OF THAT **LITTLE WITCH**! IT WAS JUST A **LITTLE LIE**... BUT I BET IT MEANS **TROUBLE**!



THAT NIGHT...

BY THE WAY, BOBBY...I HAD A PHONE CALL FROM YOUR TEACHER TODAY! CAN YOU GUESS WHAT IT WAS ABOUT?

YEAH... **ALGEBRA**!



BOBBY, IT WAS BAD ENOUGH TO **CHEAT** BY HAVING SOMEONE HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOMEWORK... BUT WHEN MISS JORDAN FOUND OUT... **WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL THE TRUTH?**

BECAUSE SHE'S A **GROWNUP**... SHE'D NEVER BELIEVE THE **LITTLE WITCH** PROMISED TO DO MY HOMEWORK LAST NIGHT ...IF I RODE WITH HER ON A BROOMSTICK TO THE **WITCH COUNTRY**! BUT HONEST, DAD... **THAT'S EXACTLY HOW IT HAPPENED!**



I'M SURPRISED AT YOUR LACK OF IMAGINATION, BOBBY! WHILE SHE WAS AT IT, WHY DIDN'T THIS **LITTLE WITCH** MAKE THE **WHOLE HOUSE** WHIZZ THROUGH THE AIR? THEN WE'D **ALL** HAVE A LOOK AT THE **WITCH COUNTRY**!

IT WOULDN'T WORK...THE **LITTLE WITCH** CAN JUST DO **LITTLE THINGS**! BUT IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN A RIDE, I CAN ASK HER... **BECAUSE SHE'S COMING BACK TONIGHT!**



BOBBY, I'M AFRAID WE STRAYED FROM THE SUBJECT! I WANT YOU TO TELL THE TRUTH FROM NOW ON... AND MEANWHILE... **STOP DAY-DREAMING!** YOU'RE GETTING TOO OLD FOR ALL THIS NONSENSE ABOUT WITCHES... **AND I EXPECT YOU TO GET RID OF THE IDEA!**



OKAY, DAD!

I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE USED A LITTLE MORE DISCIPLINE, EMILY... BUT I'VE GOT TO ADMIT THAT BROOM-RIDING STORY THREW ME!

HE'LL GET OVER IT, DEAR! BUT SPEAKING OF BROOMS... I WONDER HOW **MINE** GOT UNDER THE APPLE TREE?





IT MUST'VE ALL BEEN A DREAM! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A **FLYING BROOM** ...AND OUTSIDE OF STORY-BOOKS ... **THERE AREN'T ANY WITCHES!**



HELLO! I BROUGHT MY BROOM!



BOBBY... WHAT'S THE MATTER? AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?

SURE! BUT I CAN'T RIDE TO THE WITCH COUNTRY WITH YOU ANYMORE ... I'VE GOT TO FORGET ALL ABOUT YOU... THAT'S **ORDERS!**



I'M SORRY, LITTLE WITCH... I KNOW YOU'RE LONELY AND HAVEN'T GOT ANYONE TO PLAY WITH! BUT DAD SAYS I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR WITCHES... AND MAYBE HE'S RIGHT!



ALL RIGHT, BOBBY... I CAN'T EXPECT YOU TO DISOBEY YOUR PARENTS! YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN... BUT IF THERE'S EVER A TIME YOU NEED SOME **LITTLE THING**... I'LL REMEMBER WE'VE BEEN **FRIENDS!**



GOODBYE! GOODBYE, BOBBY!

GEE... THERE'S SOMETHING SAD ABOUT GROWING UP! I'LL WATCH THE LITTLE WITCH UNTIL SHE'S OUT OF SIGHT... AND THEN I'LL TELL MYSELF... I **USED** TO BELIEVE IN WITCHES!



BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, ON THE BACK PORCH... **WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE IS THERE?**

SIS BOOM JIMINY! SIS BOOM HECK! GIVE BOBBY A BIKE THAT'LL BREAK HIS NECK!



HA HA HA!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING...BOBBY COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EYES!

WHAT A BIKE! I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE LITTLE WITCH MANAGED TO GET IT...BUT SHE KNEW WHAT I WANTED! IT'S A FAREWELL PRESENT!



YES... WHAT A BIKE! UP MARKET HILL WENT BOBBY...TAKING THE STEEP SLOPE WITHOUT EFFORT!

GOLLY...IT PEDALS LIKE MAGIC! THIS IS ALMOST AS EASY AS ZIPPING AROUND ON A BROOM!



BUT IT WASN'T SAFE AS A BROOM! BOBBY LEARNED THAT WHEN HE REACHED THE TOP OF THE HILL...AND JAMMED DOWN ON THE BRAKE!

GOLLY, THE BRAKE DOESN'T WORK! I CAN'T STOP THE BIKE...IT'S PICKING UP SPEED!



THE GLITTERING WHEELS WHIRLED FASTER AND FASTER! TERRIFIED, BOBBY CLUNG TO THE HANDLE BARS...REALIZING THAT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL THERE WAS A CURVE...AND A WALL!



THE DOCTOR CALLED IT A CONCUSSION WITH COMPLICATIONS! ALL THAT NIGHT, BOBBY REMAINED DELIRIOUS... TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM A SINGLE TERRIFYING VISION!

IT'S NO USE...I'M GOING TO GET YOU! AND WHEN I GET YOU...

NO...NO! LITTLE WITCH... HELP ME!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING...IT BEGAN TO LOOK AS IF THE OLD WITCH WOULD WIN THE RACE!

TELL ME THE TRUTH, DOCTOR... WILL HE PULL THROUGH? HE WAS YELLING WILDLY ABOUT WITCHES ALL NIGHT LONG... AND CALLING FOR SOMEONE NAMED LITTLE WITCH... IT WAS HEART-BREAKING!

A VERY SERIOUS INFECTION HAS SET IN...AND THE ONLY THING THAT CAN CHECK IT IS **PENICILLIN!** BUT I HAVEN'T GOT ANY, AND THERE ISN'T TIME TO GET BOBBY TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL... FORTY MILES AWAY! IF YOU WANT THE TRUTH, **THERE ISN'T MUCH HOPE!**



THERE ISN'T MUCH HOPE! WHEN SHE HEARD IT, THE LITTLE WITCH'S HEART FLUTTERED... BUT THIS WAS NO TIME FOR TEARS! SHE HAD TO THINK... THINK **HARD...** AND FIND A WAY TO HELP BOBBY!



BOBBY NEEDS PENICILLIN... **PENICILLIN!** OH, MY GOODNESS... ISN'T PENICILLIN MADE FROM **MOLD...** AND ISN'T MOLD **MICROSCOPIC... A TINY LITTLE THING?**



YOU'LL HAVE TO BEAR UP, MRS. ADAMS! I'VE BEEN A DOCTOR TOO LONG TO BELIEVE IN MIRACLES... BUT YOU CAN NEVER TELL!

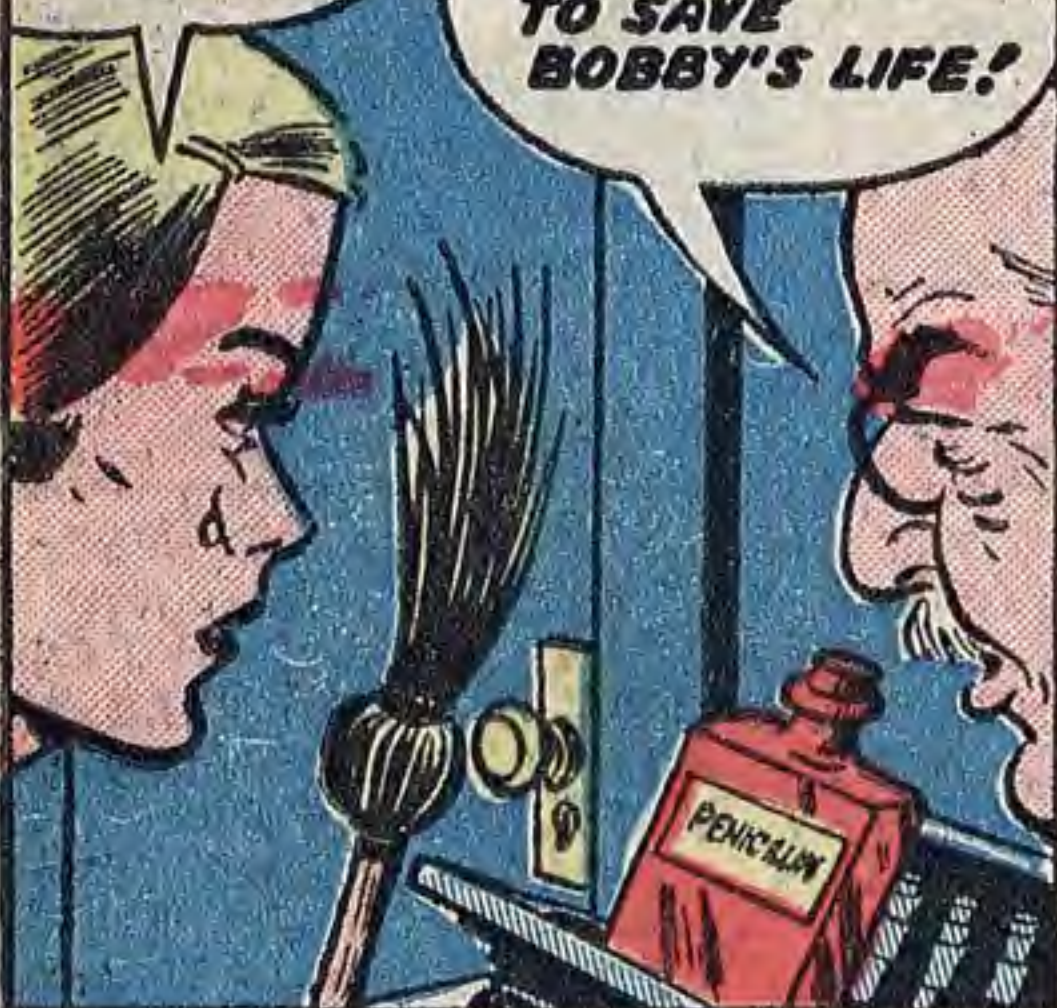
THEY'RE COMING OUT... AND IT'S **TERRIBLE** BAD LUCK FOR A WITCH TO BE SEEN BY A GROWNUP! **I WANT PENICILLIN... LOTS OF IT... RIGHT AWAY!**



THE LITTLE WITCH HAD JUST ENOUGH TIME TO WHISK OUT THE WINDOW... AND THEN SHE REALIZED... SHE'D **FORGOTTEN SOMETHING!**

DOCTOR, LOOK WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG... **RIGHT ON TOP!**

PENICILLIN! GREAT GUNS, I NEVER KNEW I HAD IT... BUT **THERE'S ENOUGH TO SAVE BOBBY'S LIFE!**



GOOD HEAVENS... I'M SURE I NEVER SAW THIS STRANGE LITTLE BROOM BEFORE! BUT THEN... I HAVEN'T KNOWN **WHAT** I'VE BEEN DOING SINCE BOBBY'S ACCIDENT! I'D BETTER BURN THE DIRTY THING!

SHE'S GOT MY BROOM! NOW I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE WITCH COUNTRY!

BUT THAT MEANS I CAN STAY **HERE...** AMONG **PEOPLE!** I'LL BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH **CHILDREN...** I WON'T BE **LONELY ANYMORE!**



THAT NIGHT, AS BOBBY SLEEPS PEACEFULLY... A SMALL FIGURE TIPTOES IN!

YOU'RE GETTING **BETTER**, BOBBY! I'M NOT FORGETTING MY PROMISE... YOU WON'T SEE ME AGAIN... BUT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG IN MY SEEING **YOU...** FOR THE LAST TIME! ...AND BOBBY... THE OLD WITCH CAN WAIT UNTIL HER TEETH FALL OUT... 'CAUSE **NEITHER** OF US IS GOING BACK TO THE WITCH COUNTRY!



AND SO THE LITTLE WITCH NEVER RODE A BROOMSTICK AMONG THE STARS AGAIN... AND SHE NEVER GREW ANY OLDER... BECAUSE **THAT** WOULD MEAN SHE WOULD HAVE TO STOP BELIEVING IN WITCHES! MAYBE SOMEWHERE YOU'VE SEEN HER... HAPPY... PLAYING WITH **LITTLE THINGS!**

YAAA... SHE STRUCK OUT! WHO EVER SAW A GIRL WHO COULD HANDLE A **BROOMSTICK?**



The End



9th NEW...

**IT'S SPINE-TINGLING
...IT'S Different!**

**SKELETON
HAND**

in **SECRETS OF THE SUPERNATURAL**

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"TRUE" GHOSTS
OF HISTORY

THE HAUNTED FOREST

GOING GHOST HUNT-
ING THIS SUMMER,
READER? WELL, IF YOU'RE
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF
THE VAST WOODLAND
KNOWN AS **NEW FOREST**
IN THE SOUTHWEST OF
HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND,
YOU MIGHT CATCH A
GLIMPSE OF A **ROYAL**
GHOST... THE SPIRIT OF
THE TYRANT, **KING**
WILLIAM II OF ENG-
LAND, WHO REIGNED IN
THE LATTER HALF OF THE
11TH CENTURY!



ON AUGUST 2ND IN THE YEAR 1100,
KING WILLIAM WAS ENGAGED IN ONE OF
HIS FREQUENT HUNTING EXPEDITIONS IN
NEW FOREST...



... WHEN SUDDENLY AN ARROW
FROM AN UNSEEN ARCHER
CUT HIM DOWN!



ON AUGUST 2ND, 1101, TWO
ROYAL GAME WARDENS
CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN THE
GHOST OF THE KING GALLOP-
ING ON A **GHOSTLY** HORSE IN
A **GHOSTLY** HUNT THROUGH
NEW FOREST!

DO...DO
YE SEE
WHAT I
SEE?

AYE! THE...
THE SPIRIT O'
KING WILL...
IN THE CLOTHES
HE DIED
IN!



THE WITNESSES FURTHER
REPORTED THAT THE
SPIRIT HAD SUDDENLY
TOPPLED OFF ITS SPECT-
RAL STEED WITH A
PHANTOM ARROW IN ITS
CHEST... JUST BEFORE
THE ENTIRE APPARITION
VANISHED! AND ON EACH
SUCCEEDING ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE KING'S
DEATH, IT HAS BEEN
SAID, THE **SAME**
SIGHT CAN BE SEEN
IN THE HEART OF NEW
FOREST!



SO IF **YOU** CAN, VISIT NEW
FOREST THIS COMING
AUGUST 2ND... AND LET US
KNOW IF **YOU** SEE THE
ROYAL SPECTER IN THE
HAUNTED FOREST!



The End

A man falls from a building--"Suicide!" reads the police report! An auto strikes a woman--"Accidental death!" says the newspaper! But--perhaps they're **WRONG**! Perhaps **EVERY** death is known in advance--is **PLANNED**--by someone! Who can deny it? Can you--after reading the shock-filled story of...

THE **SOUL COLLECTORS**



NO! YOU **CAN'T** TAKE HIM! I WON'T LET YOU!

HIS NAME IS IN THE **BOOK**! HE IS MARKED FOR **DEATH**!

CAL CRAIG WAS HURRYING TO A DISTANT COLLEGE--TO WATCH HIS SWEETHEART RECEIVE HER LAW DEGREE! THE BLEAK, DISMAL NIGHT DIDN'T HELP MATTERS--

WONDER HOW IT'LL BE--MARRIED TO A LADY LAWYER? SHE'LL PROBABLY WIN ALL THE ARGUMENTS! OH-OH! THE MOTOR'S SPUTTERING--MUST BE OUT OF GAS!



UNPLEASANT, YES--BUT NOT TERRIFYING... NOT YET!

ACCORDING TO THE MAP, THERE'S A TOWN CLOSE BY! I CAN TAKE A SHORT CUT--THROUGH THIS CEMETERY--AND BUY SOME GAS THERE!



THE WALK TO TOWN WAS WET AND LONELY-- BUT PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT! UPON REACHING THE TOWN NEARBY--

CAME THROUGH THE **GRAVEYARD**, EH? YOU WOULDN'T CATCH ME THERE ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!

SEEMED PRETTY SAFE! AFTER ALL, EVERYBODY IN IT WAS **DEAD**!

ON THE WAY BACK, CAL'S GRIM HUMOR RECEIVED A RUDE SHOCK AS--

WHAT THE--! WHO ARE YOU?

COME-- THE TIME APPROACHES!

IN THE **BLACK-SHROUDED NIGHT**--

HURRY--WE'LL BE LATE FOR THE **MEETING**!

NOW LOOK HERE, YOU-- **WHAT MEETING? WHO ARE YOU?** -- I CAN'T SEE YOUR FACE!

A **STRANGE INTRUDER-- A MYSTERIOUS COMMAND-- AND BEFORE CAL COULD REGAIN HIS WITS, HE FOUND HIMSELF CONFRONTED BY A GRIM SIGHT!**

GOOD-- WE'RE IN TIME!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

AND NOW-- I WILL READ THE NAMES OF THOSE TO BE COLLECTED TOMORROW! FIRST-- **SIMON BENNETT!** SECOND--

THEN, CAL MADE A FATAL ERROR--

LOOK-- I'M IN A HURRY-- TELL ME WHERE ROUTE 60 IS, AND---

GREAT SCOTT-- THAT FACE!

A **MORTAL!** HERE-- **AMONG US!**

THE EFFECT WAS ELECTRIC! THE MONSTROUS BEINGS RUSHED AT CAL-- THEIR FLESHLESS FACES RADIATING **HORROR!**

INTRUDER-- YOU MUST PAY WITH YOUR **LIFE!**

YES, BUT NOT **THAT WAY!** HE HAS WITNESSED THE FORBIDDEN RITES-- **BRING HIM HERE!**

BUT CAL, NOW FULLY ALERT, SWUNG THE HEAVY GAS CAN-- THE MUSCLES OF AN ALL-AMERICAN TACKLE BEHIND IT!

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE-- EXCEPT AWAY FROM HERE!

WHAM!



THEN-- A MAD RACE FOR LIFE-- AGAINST LIVING DEATH-- WHILE THE BLOOD BEAT IN HIS TEMPLES AND TERROR COURSED THROUGH HIS VEINS!

THANK HEAVENS! THE CAR-- AT LAST!

HURRY! AFTER HIM!



A MOMENT TO EMPTY THE CAN-- A FRENZIED GETAWAY!...

LET HIM GO! HE CANNOT ESCAPE--HE IS MARKED FOR COLLECTION!



Still SHAKING, CAL REJOICED AT HIS NARROW ESCAPE--

THOSE-- THINGS! THEY WERE DEAD! I... I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE!



AN HOUR LATER-- WHEW! FINALLY MADE IT! THERE'S THE COLLEGE AHEAD-- AND SELMA-- WILL I BE GLAD TO SEE HER!



AS CAL STEPPED FROM HIS CAR--

L-LOOK! THAT FACE!

GREAT SCOTT!



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THOSE TWO? WHAT'RE THEY STARING AT?



FROM A NEARBY MIRROR--THE
HEART STOPPING ANSWER!

N-NO-- NO! THAT
CAN'T BE ME--
IT CAN'T BE!

GUM 1¢

I... I CAN'T FACE SELMA--
LIKE **THIS!** I'VE GOT TO
GET TO A HOTEL-- I'VE
GOT TO **THINK!**

AT THAT MOMENT--

CAL'S PROBABLY IN THE
AUDIENCE-- BET HE'S
PROUD OF ME!

BUT BY THE NEXT DAY--

HE WASN'T THERE-- AND HE
STILL HASN'T COME TO DRIVE
ME HOME! MAYBE HE DOESN'T
CARE FOR ME ANYMORE-- BUT
MAYBE-- MAYBE HE'S HAD AN
ACCIDENT!

RING!
STANG!

THANKS,
MISS!

OH, IT'S FROM CAL! "MEET
ME AT THE REGENT
HOTEL-- HURRY!"

A SWIFT CAB RIDE-- THEN--

CAL-- MY DARLING!
I **KNEW** YOU'D HAD
AN ACCIDENT!

HOW CAN I
TELL HER THE
TRUTH? HOW?

Was EVER A MIND SO TORN BY ANGUISH--
SO TORTURED BY INDECISION?

SWEETHEART-- IT WASN'T
AN ACCIDENT!

N-NOT AN
ACCIDENT?
THEN
WHAT?

SICK AT HEART, CAL RELATED THE WHOLE GRUESOMELY INCREDIBLE STORY--

... AND NOW I'VE CHANGED TO SOMETHING NO HUMAN CAN BEAR EVEN TO LOOK UPON!

BUT, CAL-- YOU'RE WRONG! I'M NOT AFRAID-- I LOVE YOU!



I WANT TO LOOK AT YOU! REMOVE THOSE BANDAGES!



HE PROTESTED IN VAIN-- AND FINALLY, WHEN HIS UNSPEAKABLY HIDEOUS FACE WAS BARED--

I KNOW-- IT'S GHASTLY! DON'T TORTURE YOURSELF THIS WAY, SWEETHEART! GO-- LEAVE ME! I... I'LL UNDERSTAND!



BUT WHO CAN PREDICT THE DEPTH OF A WOMAN'S LOVE?

MAYBE THIS IS A TEST OF OUR LOVE, DARLING! BUT NOTHING COULD EVER DRIVE ME AWAY FROM YOU! I-- I COULDN'T LIVE -- WITHOUT YOU!

OH, SELMA DARLING-- NOW YOU'VE GIVEN ME HOPE!



AS CAL'S HEART QUICKENED WITH NEW-FOUND COURAGE -- HIS EYE FELL UPON THE PAPER SELMA HAD BROUGHT!

SIMON BENNETT! HOLY SMOKE-- THAT'S ONE OF THE NAMES THAT CREATURE READ OFF IN THE CEMETERY!



FURANTICALLY, HE TURNED TO THE OBITUARY PAGE -- AND A SURGE OF DREAD FROZE HIS BLOOD!

ALL OF THESE NAMES WERE READ -- FOR TODAY'S COLLECTION! THEY ALL DIED TODAY!

BUT.. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



I DON'T KNOW-- BUT I INTEND TO FIND OUT! BUT FIRST I MUST GET SOME REST-- I NEED TIME TO MAKE PLANS!

ALL RIGHT, DARLING-- BUT I'LL SEE YOU LATER-- WITHOUT FAIL!



ONLY BRIEF MOMENTS PASSED BEFORE THERE WAS A BOLD KNOCK AT CAL'S DOOR! AFTER DARKENING THE ROOM TO CONCEAL HIS FACE--

Y-YOU! YOU'RE ONE OF THE GHOULS FROM THE CEMETERY!

GHOULS? YOU ARE BADLY IN ERROR! PERHAPS I SHOULD EXPLAIN!



IT HAD COME-- THE FINAL STAGE OF SICKENING HORROR--

LAST NIGHT, YOU INTERRUPTED A MEETING OF THE **SOUL COLLECTORS** FOR THIS DISTRICT! EACH NIGHT, CERTAIN UN-FORTUNATES ARE MARKED FOR DEATH! NEXT DAY, WE COLLECT THEIR SOULS---

SO-- WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH **ME**?



HAVING SEEN OUR RITUAL, FORBIDDEN TO THE LIVING-- YOU ARE AUTOMATICALLY **DOOMED**! NOW-- LET US GO!

NO-- I WON'T!



WITH A SUDDEN LUNGE--

I GOT AWAY FROM YOU ONCE-- I CAN DO IT AGAIN!

HOW COULD MORTAL MUSCLES OVERPOWER THE IRRESISTIBLE STRENGTH OF A CREATURE FROM THE **BEYOND**? AFTER A SWIFT COUNTERATTACK--

I REPEAT-- LET US GO!

Y-YES! BUT-- LET-- GO! YOU'RE-- **STRANGLING** ME!



UNEXPECTEDLY--

WHA--? WHO IS **THIS**?

SELMA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE-- **NOW**?

I PASSED THIS-- THIS CREATURE IN THE HALL, SO I CAME BACK -- AND HEARD **EVERYTHING!**



IT HAS BEEN SAID-- "EVEN THE DEVIL QUAILS BEFORE AN ANGRY WOMAN!" BUT HERE WAS AN ANGRY WOMAN WHO WAS ALSO-- A **LAWYER!**

YOU HAVE NO **LEGAL** RIGHT TO TAKE THIS MAN'S SOUL! I **IN-SIST** ON ARGUING MY CLIENT'S CASE!

THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO COME BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY AND SPEAK TO OUR LEADER! BUT MY TASK IS TO BRING THE VICTIM IN-- AND THAT I SHALL DO!



IT WAS THE MOST BIZARRE TRIAL EVER HELD! A SPIRITED GIRL AGAINST-- SUPERNATURAL SPIRITS!

THIS IS MOST IRREGULAR-- BUT THE DEFENSE MAY PROCEED!

YOUR HONOR-- I CLAIM THAT THE PUNISHMENT IS TOO GREAT! MY CLIENT CAME TO YOUR MEETING BY **ACCIDENT!**



BUT THE SPECTRAL PROSECUTOR, BACKED BY CENTURIES OF EXPERIENCE, PROVED A WORTHY FOE!

HA! **MANY** MEN MEET DEATH BY ACCIDENT! BESIDES, HE HAD NO **RIGHT** IN THE CEMETERY AT NIGHT-- THUS TRESPASSING ON THE REALM OF DEPARTED SOULS!

IT IS FITTING THAT HE **JOIN** THEM!

WELL SPOKEN! HAS THE DEFENSE ANYTHING TO ADD?

OH! I'VE GOT TO THINK **FAST!** OR--



WAIT! YOU SAID YOU COULD COLLECT ONLY THOSE SOULS **MARKED** FOR DEATH **IN THIS BOOK!** MY CLIENT'S NAME IS **NOT** HERE FOR TODAY'S COLLECTION-- THEREFORE-- **YOU CAN'T TAKE HIM!**

WHAT? LET **ME** SEE THAT BOOK!



THERE, HIS NAME HAS ALREADY BEEN ADDED! YOU SEE-- HE HAS BEEN **TOUCHED** BY A SOUL COLLECTOR-- THUS HE **MUST** DIE! EVEN I CANNOT SAVE HIM!

THEN I... I'VE **LOST!** I'VE LOST **EVERYTHING!** CAL MEANS MORE TO ME THAN LIFE ITSELF!



AS THE LOVERS PARTED TENDERLY--

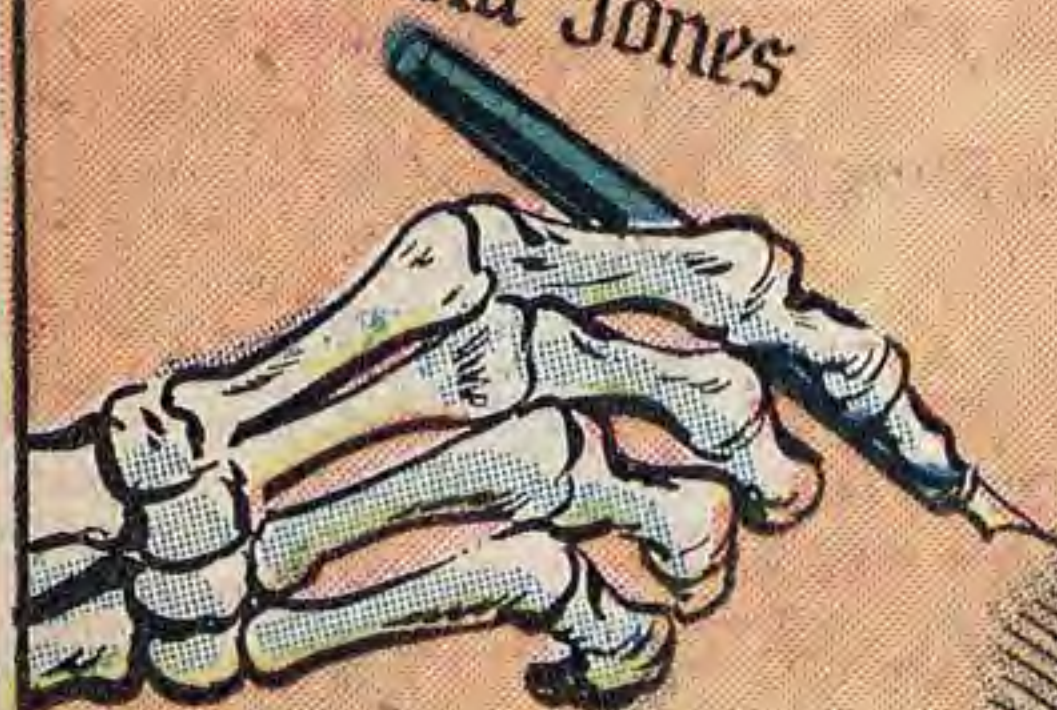
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, SWEETHEART -- **ALWAYS!**

AND I YOU -- FOR ALL ETERNITY!



WAS THE GHOSTLY JUDGE'S DEAD HEART STIRRED BY SOMETHING AKIN TO **PITY**-- AS HE WROTE **ANOTHER** NAME IN THE BOOK OF THOSE MARKED FOR DEATH **THE NEXT DAY?**

John Foster
Mary Simms
Cal Craig
Selma Jones



AND SO-- CAL MET HIS FATE! BUT IT WAS NOT A GRIM ONE-- FOR AS HE PASSED OVER THE THIN BARRIER BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, HE REGAINED HIS YOUTH-- AND THE PROMISE OF **ETERNAL** HAPPINESS WITH HIS BELOVED! FOR ONCE IN THE **BEYOND**, CAL LEARNED OF THE GHOSTLY JUDGES ACT-- AND HE HAD ONLY TO WAIT--

SELMA SAID SHE COULDN'T **LIVE** WITHOUT ME-- AND SHE **MEANT** IT! SHE'LL JOIN ME HERE SOON-- AND THEN WE'LL BE TOGETHER-- **FOREVER!**



The End



PEOPLE OFTEN SAY, "Life begins at forty." We've sometimes doubted that, but now we're convinced, and if you glance at the number of this magazine you'll realize what we're talking about. For this is the *fortieth* issue of "Adventures Into The Unknown", the first supernatural comic book published in America, and by popular acclaim, still the *greatest*.

We're constantly asked to divulge the secret of our success. For reply we quickly dip into the laden mail bags from you, our loyal fans, and let your letters speak for themselves. There's no mystery about why "Adventures Into The Unknown" has month after month been reaching an ever-growing audience. Simply, it's that we've spared no pains or expense to bring you the most breathtaking yarns in the rich and varied annals of supernatural lore. And these we've had illustrated by masterful artists.

But we've no intention of resting on our laurels, and this is what we mean by life beginning at forty. For this, our fortieth issue, is the greatest yet. We've assem-

bled as fine an assortment of spellbinding tales as you've ever encountered, starting with "Heart of the Snow Maiden", a terror-laden chiller guaranteed for gasps. "The Little Witch" is, in our opinion, one of the best stories we've ever come across, and it's being published in response to hundreds of letters asking for more of this kind of fare. We'll be waiting anxiously for your opinion of it. "The Soul Collectors" is a weird and eerie thriller, packing a tremendous final wallop you'll never forget! And as for "The Sinister Double", its incredible menace is sure to haunt your imagination for a long time.

We've every intention of bringing you still greater and greater stories. Our system for insuring success is infallible. You see, our policies are framed after long consultation with the wishes expressed in your countless letters. So, please, keep letting us know your feelings and preferences, simply by writing to The Editor, "Adventures Into The Unknown", 45 West 45th Street, New York 36, N. Y. Now, let's listen to what some of our readers think:

"Dear Editor:-

I've read a lot of supernatural comics, but 'Adventures Into The Unknown' is the best for me. Your last issue was really wonderful. The stories I liked most were 'The Midnight Howl' and 'Artist of Evil'. Keep 'em coming out.

--Paul Szalchetka, Baltimore, Md."

"Dear Editor:-

This is my first reading of 'Adventures Into The Unknown'. The stories were so weird and fantastic that I liked every one. I couldn't tell which of these three I liked better: 'Artist of Evil', 'Twin of Terror', or 'The Midnight Howl'. I shall continue to read your exciting stories. Please, keep them coming.

--Lorene Powell, Atlanta, Ga."

"Dear Editor:-

I got acquainted with your magazine when I was sick. I asked my father to get me a comic book, and he bought yours. Please keep putting out 'Adventures Into The Unknown', as I enjoy it very much.

--Joseph Kling, Morristown, N. J."

The **SINISTER** Double

WHAT DO WE KNOW OF THAT STRANGE MECHANISM, **THE HUMAN MIND**? WHAT AWESOMELY EVIL IMPULSES LURK BEHIND A VEIL OF DARKNESS-- DEEP WITHIN THE **SUBCONSCIOUS**? NO ONE KNOWS! HOW, THEN, CAN WE LOOK UPON THE FRIGHTFUL TRAGEDY OF TAD HAVER, AND SAY, "IT COULD NOT HAPPEN!" READ THIS SPINE-CHILLING STORY-- **CAREFULLY**-- BEFORE YOU DECIDE!



OH, STAN--
I LOVE
YOU SO!

Y-YOU
MONSTER!



AT A COLLEGE LECTURE ON ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY--

EVERYONE HAS TWO SIDES TO HIS CHARACTER-- ONE **GOOD**, ONE **EVIL**! IN MOST OF US, THE GOOD IS STRONGER, BUT WHEN THE "**SINISTER SELF**" TAKES OVER-- TRAGEDY RESULTS!



AN ORDINARY LECTURE, YES-- BUT IT DEEPLY AFFECTED TAD HAVER, HONOR STUDENT--

... AND IF THE EVIL SIDE OF A PERSON COULD-- **DETACH** ITSELF FROM THE BODY-- WHAT THEN? WHY DO I KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT?



THIS SPLITTING HEADACHE IS GETTING WORSE! I'D BETTER LIE DOWN AWHILE!



TAD FELL INTO AN UNNATURAL SLEEP-- AS A STRANGE DARKNESS ENVELOPED THE ROOM! THEN, WEAVING OMINOUSLY, A SHAPELESS FORM SHOOK ITSELF FREE OF HIS HELPLESS BODY!



AN INSTANT LATER, THE FORM
HAD TAKEN SINISTER SHAPE--
EMBODYING SUPREME EVIL!

ESCAPE-- **AT LAST!** AND
WITH A NERVELESS BODY NO
MORTAL CAN
HARM!



TAD'S BROODING MIND HAD RELAXED-- LONG ENOUGH TO RE-
LEASE A TERRIFYING MONSTER INTENT UPON-- **SLAUGHTER!**

NOW-- TO FULFILL MY **DESTINY!**--
TO **KILL--KILL--KILL!**

IT'S TAD HAVER--
BUT HE'S GONE
INSANE!



NEXT MORNING--

**UNDER
ARREST?**
BUT I HAVEN'T
DONE ANY-
THING!

WE'VE GOT EYE-
WITNESSES,
YOUNG
FELLA--
COME
ALONG!



AT THE POLICE STATION--THE
NIGHTMARE GREW EVEN
MORE DISTORTED--

EVEN AS HE WAS RELEASED, TAD
FELT THE FIRST GNAWING PANGS
OF AN UNTHINKABLE SUSPICION--

NO, TAD-- IT WAS **NOT** IMPOSSIBLE
FOR EVEN AS YOU APPROACHED
THE HOME OF YOUR FIANCÉE--

CHIEF-- HAVER
JUST STRANGLED
TWO MORE PEOPLE!
A REPORTER GOT
HIS PICTURE!

IMPOSSIBLE!
HAVER
WAS
HERE
ALL THE
TIME!

UNDOUBTEDLY THE CRIMES
WERE COMMITTED BY YOUR
DOUBLE!
MOST AMAZING
LIKENESS I
EVER SAW!

MY-- **DOUBLE?**
THAT COULD MEAN
-- BUT-- IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

TAD, DARLING-- YOU SEEM
NERVOUS TODAY-- AND
DIFFERENT, SOMEHOW--

BEEN STUDYING
TOO MUCH, I GUESS--

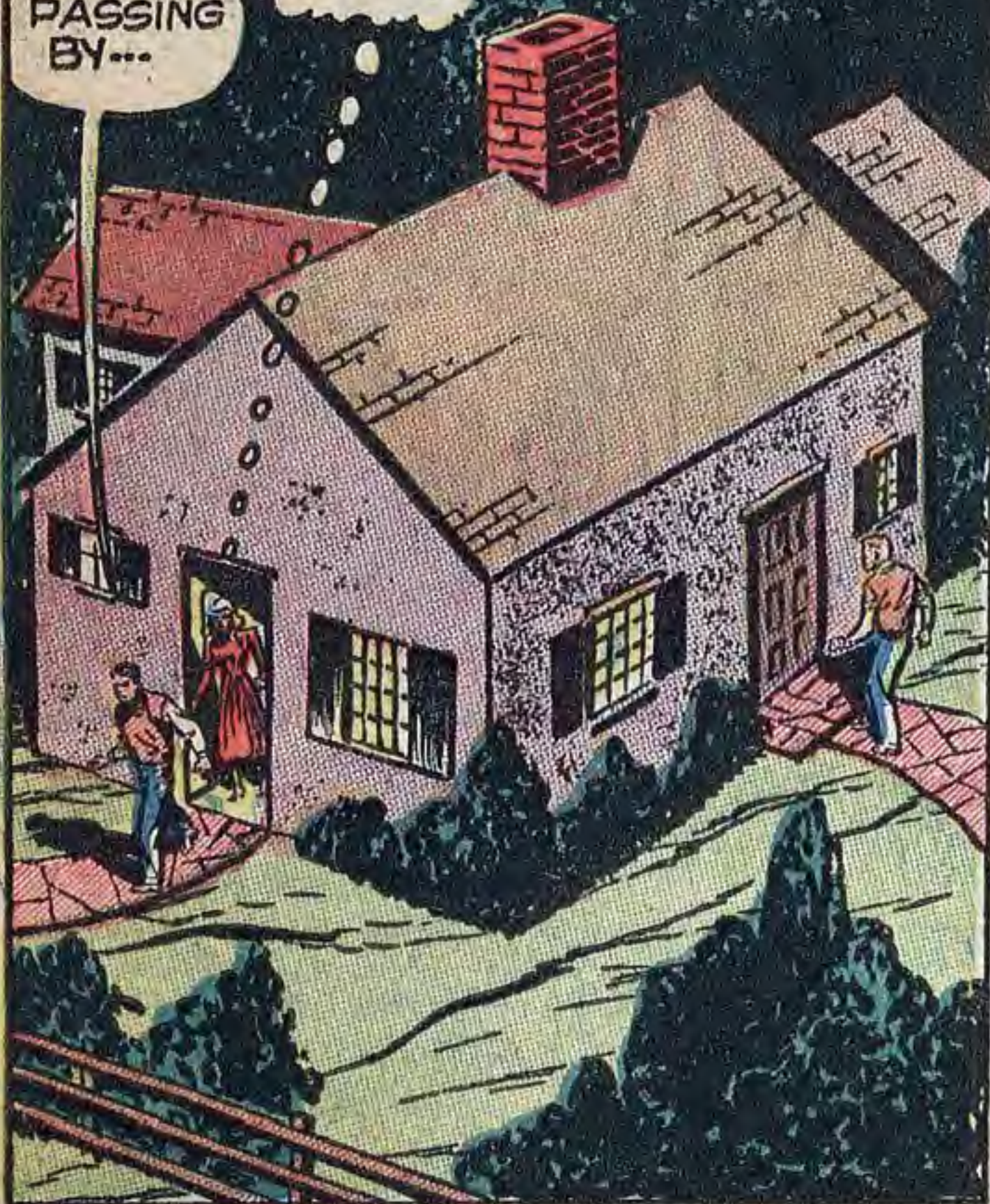
OH-OH! HERE
COMES HAVER!
HE MUSTN'T
SEE ME!



A HASTY EXCUSE-- A SUDDEN DEPARTURE--

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, DARLING-- I THINK I SEE A FRIEND PASSING BY---

GOODNESS --HE **IS** ACTING QUEER TODAY!



A MOMENT LATER--

HI, RHEA-- MIND IF I STOP IN AWHILE?

ARE YOU **CRAZY**, TAD? YOU JUST **LEFT** HERE A MINUTE AGO!



AND NOW--TAD'S MOST DREADFUL SUSPICIONS WERE REALIZED--

THAT SETTLES IT! YOU MAY THINK I'M CRAZY-- **BUT THE SINISTER SIDE OF MY CHARACTER HAS MATERIALIZED-- IN ITS OWN BODY!**

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! I'VE GOT TO SEE PROFESSOR BUTLER-- IT WAS **HIS** LECTURE THAT STARTED ALL THIS!



INCREDIBLE THOUGH TAD'S STORY WAS--THE PROFESSOR DID NOT DOUBT IT--

-- IN THE PAST, DUAL PERSONALITIES HAVE SEPARATED INTO TWO BODIES! BUT IN EVERY CASE, THE SINISTER SELF HAS TRIUMPHED IN THE INEVITABLE CONFLICT!

ALL VISIBLE CREATURES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD ARE COMPOSED OF **ECTOPLASM**-- A SUBSTANCE WHICH LOOKS LIKE FLESH, BUT IS COMPLETELY **NERVELESS!**

THEN-- HOW CAN I DESTROY IT?

YOU CAN'T! IT CAN ONLY BE DONE BY A **THIRD PERSON**-- SOMEONE WHO IS--**SPIRITUALLY CLOSE** TO YOU!

BUT--WHERE DOES THE EVIL ONE GET ITS BODY?



AS THEY LEFT THE PROFESSOR--

TAD-- THAT CREATURE DOESN'T KNOW I SUSPECT HIM! WHEN HE RETURNS, I-- I'LL **KILL** HIM!

NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS! PROMISE ME YOU WON'T INTERFERE -- YOU MUSTN'T!

ALL RIGHT, TAD, I-- I PROMISE!

THAT'S MY GIRL! GOODNIGHT, SWEET-- I'LL SEE YOU AFTER CLASSES TOMORROW -- AT FOUR O'CLOCK!

IT SEEMED AN ETERNITY BEFORE TAD CALLED, THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON--

HI, DARLING!

YOU'RE LATE, TAD-- I WAS WORRIED!

LET'S FORGET OUR TROUBLES, HONEY-- AND-- RELAX!

WAIT, I'LL HAVE TO ANSWER THE PHONE FIRST!

EACH METALLIC WORD FROM THE RECEIVER EXPLODED IN HER BRAIN LIKE A TINY BOMB--

AS THE DREADFUL REALIZATION PENETRATED HER NUMBED SENSES--

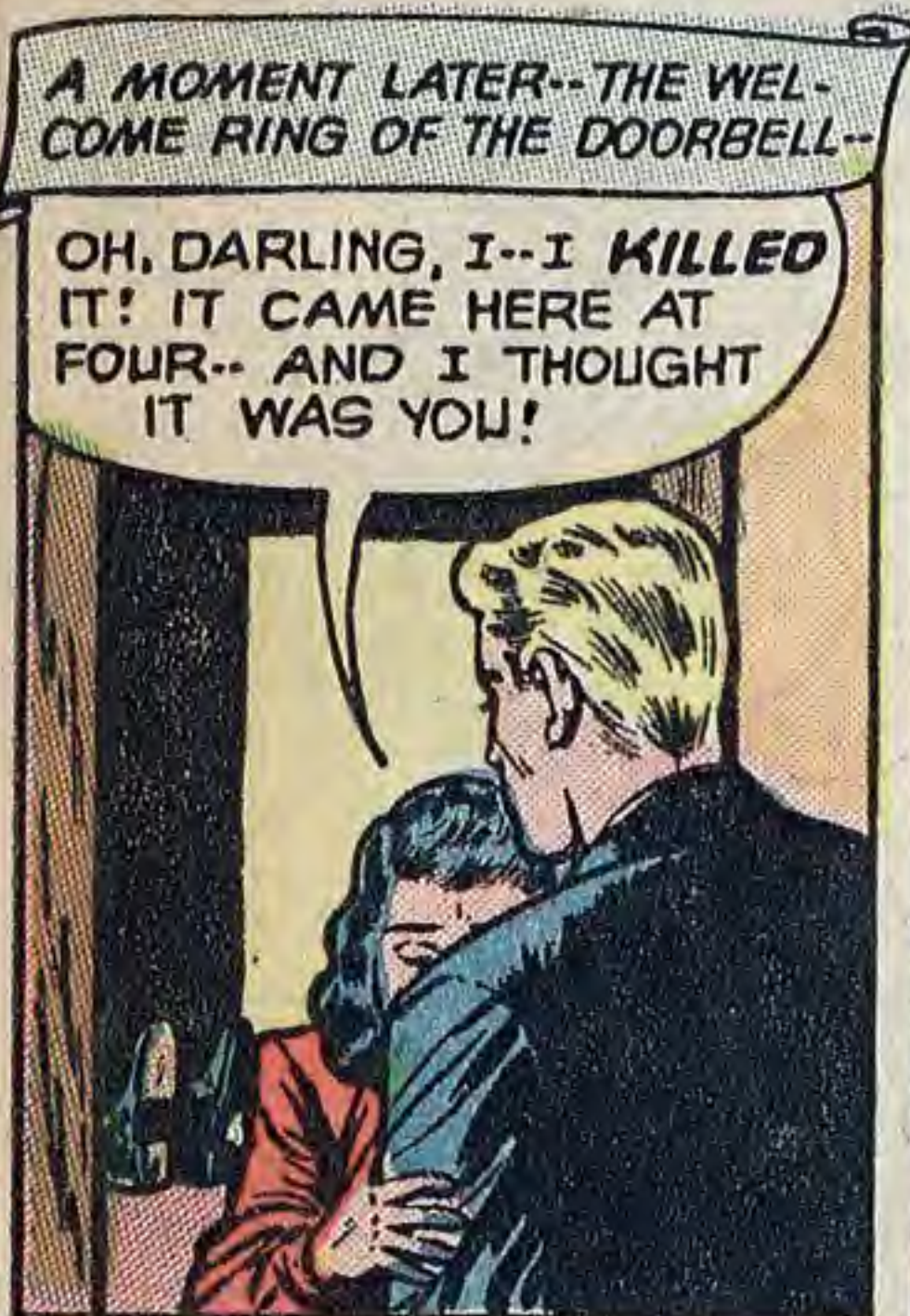
RHEA? THIS IS TAD! I'LL SEE YOU IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES! OKAY?

Y-YES, OF COURSE--

I-- I'VE BEEN TALKING -- ALONE WITH TAD'S **DOUBLE**-- THE **MONSTER!**

R-RING!

THINGS CAN ONLY GO ON LIKE THIS-- FROM BAD TO WORSE-- TILL THAT TERRIBLE CREATURE **KILLS** TAD! UNLESS-- UNLESS **I** HAVE THE COURAGE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY **OWN HANDS!**



The AMAZING ASTROLOGER

ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING ASTROLOGERS OF HISTORY WAS **BATTISTA SENI**, THE ITALIAN MYSTIC OF THE 17TH CENTURY—WHOSE EXPLORATIONS INTO THE FORBIDDEN WORLD OF THE OCCULT GAVE HIM STRANGE POWERS OF DIVINATION!



SENI'S FAME SPREAD FAR AND WIDE—AND IN 1600, A GERMAN YOUTH—**ALBRECHT VON WALLENSTEIN**—VISITED THE ASTROLOGER IN PADUA!

I HAVE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOUR POWER OF FORETELLING THE FUTURE—AND I WOULD LIKE MY HOROSCOPE READ!

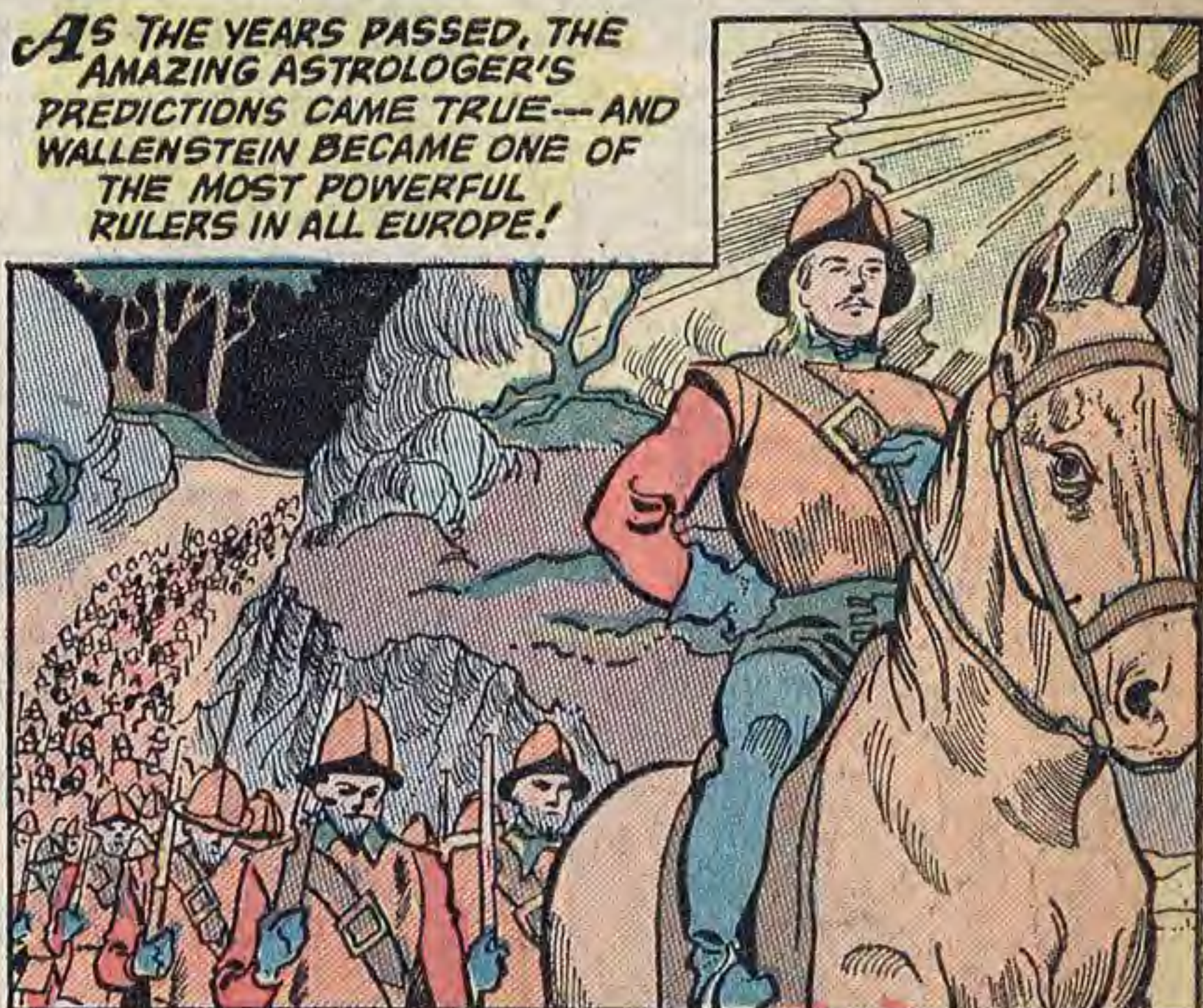
BE SEATED— I WILL CONSULT MY OCCULT BOOKS AND CRYSTAL BALL!



AH— YOU HAVE A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU! YOU WILL BE A CONQUERING GENERAL, A POWERFUL DUKE, AND A GREAT STATESMAN! BUT... BUT YOU ARE DOOMED TO PERISH BY AN ASSASSIN'S SWORD... **ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 25TH, 1634!**



AS THE YEARS PASSED, THE AMAZING ASTROLOGER'S PREDICTIONS CAME TRUE—AND WALLENSTEIN BECAME ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL RULERS IN ALL EUROPE!



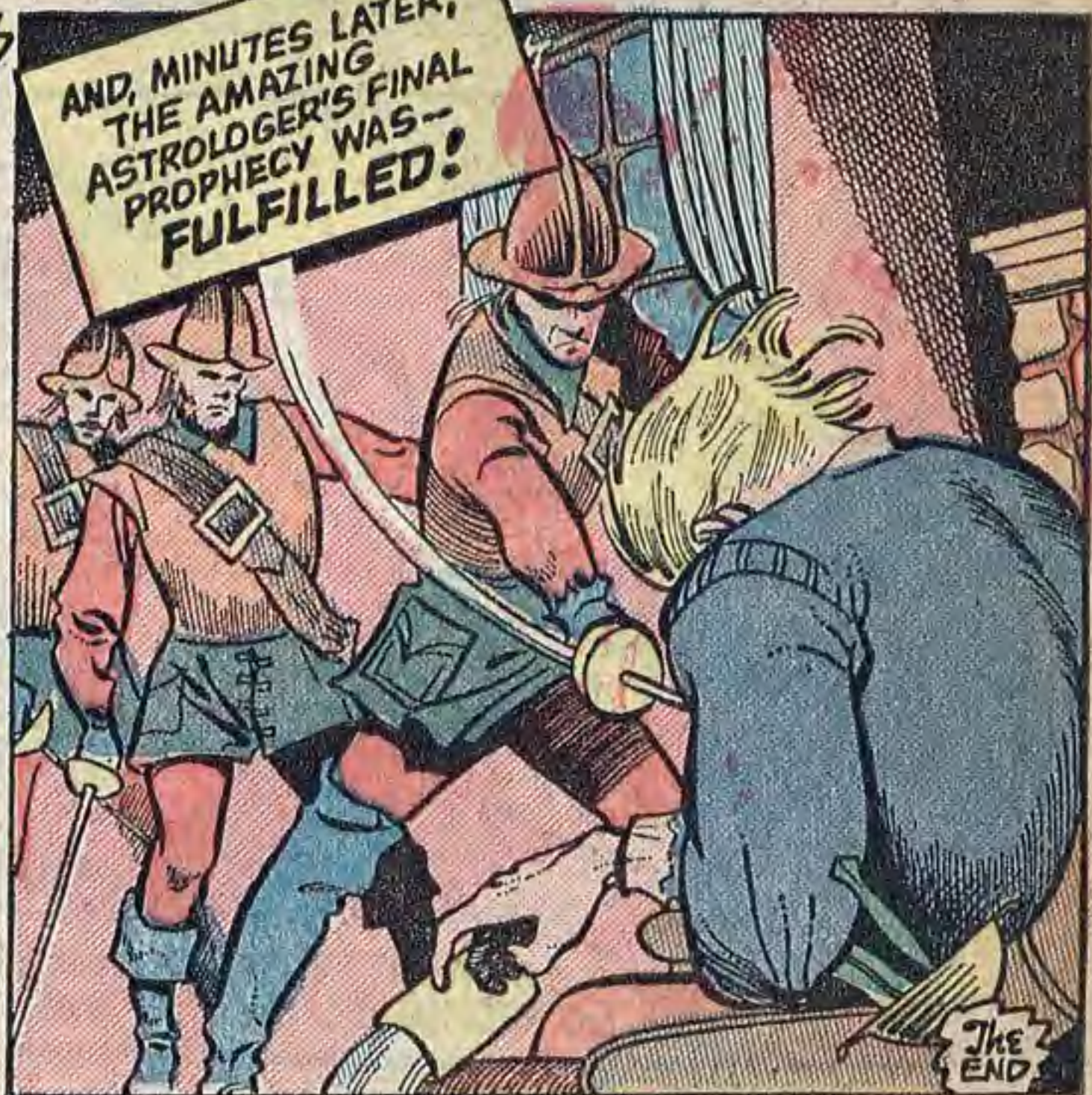
THEN, ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 25TH, 1634...

I BEAR EVIL NEWS, MIGHTY DUKE! -- YOUR OFFICERS HAVE **REVOLTED!** CAPTAIN DEVEREAUX AND SOLDIERS ARE APPROACHING SWIFTLY TO **ASSASSINATE YOU!** LET US FLEE!

IT WOULD BE NO USE! BATTISTA SENI'S PREDICTIONS HAVE ALL COME TRUE THUS FAR, AND I AM RESIGNED TO MY FATE!



AND, MINUTES LATER, THE AMAZING ASTROLOGER'S FINAL PROPHECY WAS— **FULFILLED!**



THE END

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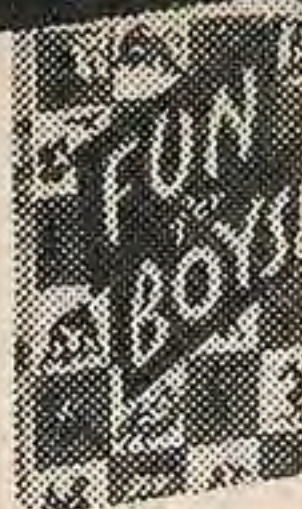
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